

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-04 NIC-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7590

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7948

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONERS: ARRESTED TEACHER

UNION LEADERS TO BE TRIED FOR SUBVERSION

REF: LIMA 7863 AND 7822

SUMMARY: MILGOV CRACKDOWN ON POLITICAL OPPONENTS
MARKED BY RECENT WAVE OF DEPORTATIONS HAS NOT RESULTED
IN IMPRISONMENT WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRIAL UNDER
RATHER NEBULOUS CHARGES OF SUBVERSION FOR ABOUT 30
TEACHER UNION LEADERS. PRISONERS WERE ARRESTED IN
AFTERMATH OF NATIONWIDE ONE-DAY TEACHER STRIKE OCT 24,
AND ARE PREDOMINANTLY NON-MOSCOW LINE LEFT RADICALS.

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MILGOV ISSUED COMMUNIQUE
OCT 29 ANNOUNCING THAT IT HAD DECIDED TO QUOTE FIRE,
DETAIN AND TRY THE EXTREMISTS OF SO-CALLED SUTEP
FOR PROMOTING IN THE COUNTRY A SUBVERSIVE SITUATION
END QUOTE. NO SPECIFIC LAWS WHICH SUTEP LEADERS
ALLEGED TO HAVE VIOLATED WERE MENTIONED, BUT THE
LIST OF THEIR SUPPOSED SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS INCLUDED
PROMOTING ILLEGAL STRIKES, TAKEOVERS OF SCHOOLS
AND TAKING OF HOSTAGES, FORMING PSUEDO FEDERATIONS
OF SECONDARY STUDENTS; INDOCTRINATING STUDENTS WITH
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CLASS WARFARE IDEOLOGY; SABOTAGING EDUCATIONAL

REFORM; AND PROMOTING THE FORMATION OF SO-CALLED
DEFENSE FRONTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY. END
UNCLASSIFIED.

2. AN ESTIMATED 30 SUTEP LEADERS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER
ARREST AS RESULT OCT 24 STRIKE (REFTELS). IMMEDIATELY
PRIOR HIS ARREST, SEC-GEN HORACIO ZEBALLOS GAMEZ
TOLD CONTACT OF LABATT THAT SUTEP WAS GOING UNDERGROUND
IN FACE OF CRACKDOWN. MOST RECENT SUTEP COMMUNIQUE
TO PRESS WAS UNSIGNED AND SUTEP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
REPORTEDLY OCCUPIED BY POLICE.

3. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HEADLINED MILGOV ANNOUNCEMENT,
BUT ONLY PUBLIC COMMENT SO FAR HAS BEEN EXPECTED
APPROVING SLANT OF NEWS ARTICLE IN GOP-CONTROLLED
NUEVA CRONICA. APRISTA-DEMOCRATIC CTP PRESENTLY
PLANS NEWS RELEASE OBLIQUELY CRITICIZING MILGOV
ACTION, BUT MAY MAKE STRONGER COMMENT UPON RETURN
TO PERU OF SEC-GEN CRUZADO. MOSCOW-COMMUNIST CGTP
IS IN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION; UNLESS IT AT LEAST
MILDLY CRITICIZES MILGOV THEREBY DEVIATING FROM ITS
RECENT POLICY OF UNSWERVING SUPPORT, IT WILL LOSE STILL
FURTHER ITS CREDIBILITY AS LEGITIMATE TRADE UNION.

4. COMMENT: MILGOV ANNOUNCEMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH
RECENT TRACKDOWN ON ITS OPPONENTS OF BOTH LEFT AND RIGHT. FOR
FIRST TIME SINCE EARLIER
TEACHERS' STRIKE ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, PERU NOW HAS
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS NOT CHARGED
WITH DIRECT PARTICIPATION IN SPECIFIC VIOLENT
CRIMINAL ACTS. WE DOUBT THAT THIS STEP WOULD HAVE
BEEN TAKEN HAD MILGOV NOT OBTAINED OVER PAST SEVERAL
MONTHS THE COMPLETE SUPPORT OF PCV (MOSCOW-
LINE) AND ITS CGTP LABOR ARM. INITIAL TEACHER AND
STUDENT REACTION TO ARRESTS BY SEIZING SCHOOLS AND
DEMONSTRATING AGAINST MILGOV IN SEVERAL PROVINCIAL
CENTERS (FIRST REFTTEL SEEMS TO HAVE TAPERED OFF.
APRA IS STILL PLAYING CAUTIOUS ROLE, MANY TEACHERS ARE
COWED AND WE DOUBT THAT BANDERA ROJA COMMUNIST
FACTION AND MIR (PREDOMINANT POLITICAL ELEMENTS OF
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SUTEP) WILL BE ABLE TO UTILIZE MILGOV ANNOUNCEMENT
TO PROVOKE SERIOUS DISORDERS OVER SHORT-TERM.
HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY OF RADICAL ANTI-MILGOV ELEMENTS
TURNING TOWARD OCCASIONAL VIOLENT INCIDENTS, PARTICULARLY
IN PROVINCES, WOULD SEEM TO BE INCREASED.
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